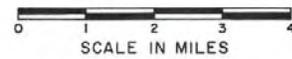
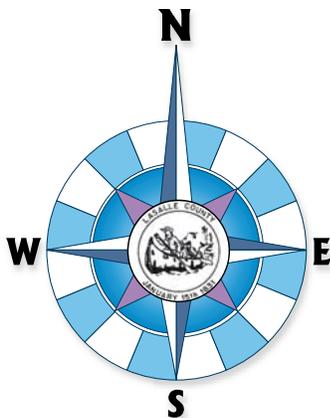
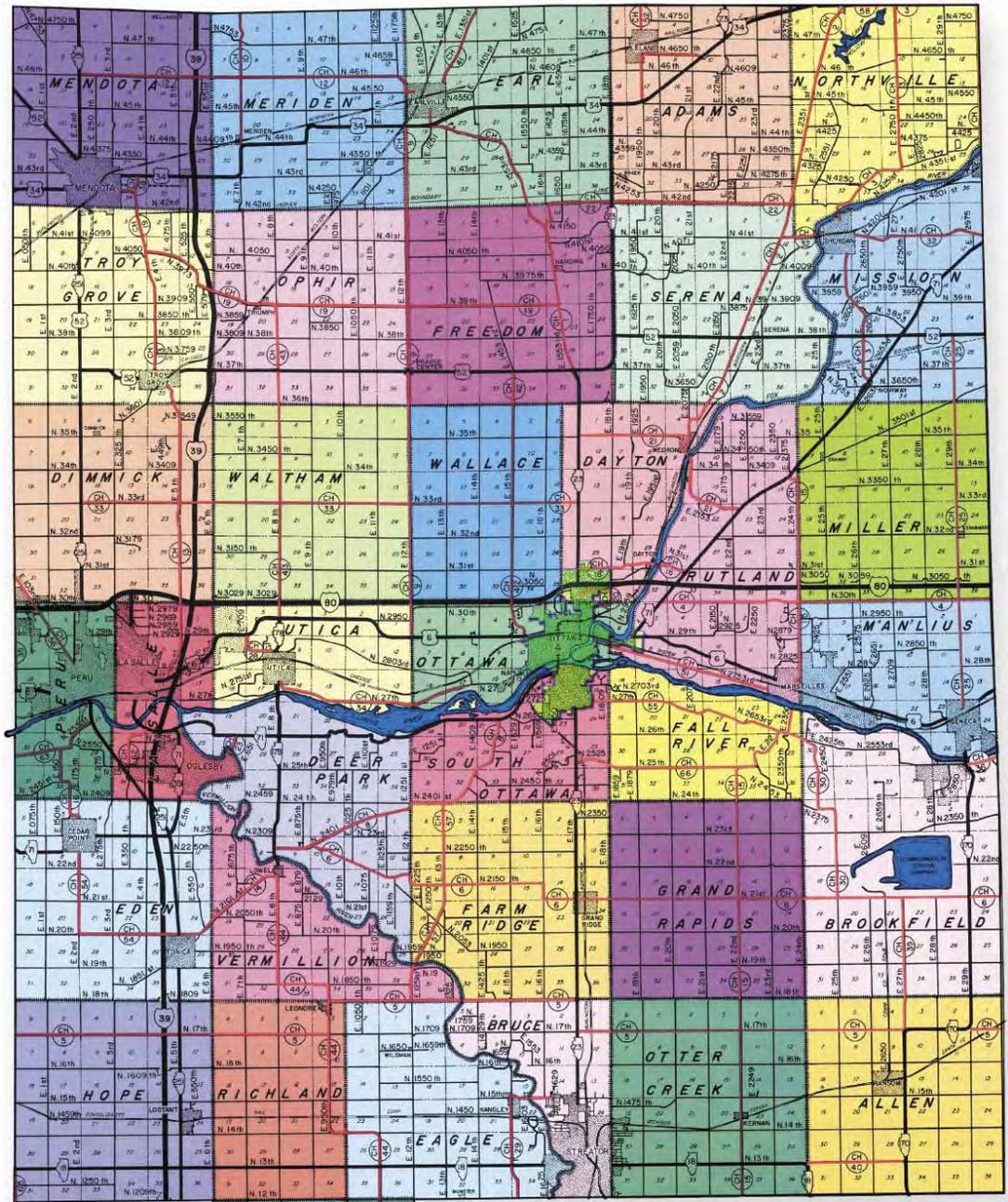
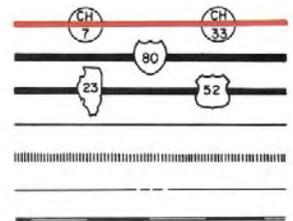


# LaSalle County, Illinois Official Road Map



COUNTY HIGHWAYS  
 INTERSTATE HIGHWAYS  
 STATE & U.S. HIGHWAYS  
 TOWNSHIP HIGHWAYS  
 TOWNSHIP BOUNDARY  
 SECTION LINE  
 RAILROAD





I-80 & Rt. 23 Interchange



Norris Drive



LaSalle Street, Downtown Ottawa



Commercial on Norris Drive

## Transportation

A safe, convenient, and efficient circulation system is vital to the economic well being and quality of life in Ottawa. An effective system must not only be capable of accommodating present and future traffic volumes, but it should also serve the people by connecting living areas with employment, shopping, medical and recreational facilities. The transportation system must meet the needs of business and industry by linking those activities with essential services and distant markets. The total transportation system should encompass multi-modal transportation including local and transient vehicular traffic, pedestrian ways and bicycle circulation, rail service for transport of goods as well as the potential to restore commuter rail service to Ottawa.

Several federal and state highways run through Ottawa. I-80 is located in the northern portion of the City, and Illinois Routes 23 and 71 transect the City. Illinois Route 23 runs north-south while Illinois Route 71 runs from the northeast to the southwest. Illinois Routes 23 and 71 travel directly through the downtown bringing a large amount of traffic through the center of Ottawa. Illinois Routes 23 and 71 in the downtown area from the river to the Canal is one way going north on Columbus Street and one way going south using LaSalle Street. U.S. Highway 6 is slightly north of the downtown and travels directly east-west. The development of these major roadways combined with the earlier means of transportation and the Illinois and Fox Rivers, helped Ottawa gain importance in the region as a transportation hub.

Today, the Illinois River is still a vital part of the transportation system. Barges pass through this area carrying goods to and from the Chicago area. The Illinois River is not only a means for transporting goods but, along with the Fox River, it is used for recreational purposes by thousands of people each year.

Another means of transportation used by bicyclists, hikers, cross-country skiers and snowmobilers is the I&M Canal Trail. The trail uses the historic I&M Canal tow path, and is part of the Grand Illinois Trail.



Aerial of I&M Canal



Ottawa Train Station

The airport at Dayton is located on the far northeastern edge of the mile-and-one-half jurisdictional limit. The airport is used by locally owned aircraft and by Skydive Chicago, a very popular recreational sporting company.

With the amount of traffic that moves in and out of Ottawa on Illinois Routes 23 and 71, and with the potential growth possibilities on the southeast, Ottawa should plan for another route for increased transient traffic to bypass around the City. This proposed bypass would connect with Illinois Route 71 near the I-80 interchange and go directly south, crossing perpendicular to the I&M Canal and the Illinois River. After the bypass crosses the Illinois River, it could connect with an existing road roughly three-quarters of a mile south of the corporate limits, which connects to Illinois Route 23.

Another transportation change that the City is considering is moving one-way traffic from Illinois Route 23 on LaSalle Street to Clinton Street. This change would facilitate the movement of transient traffic onto Clinton Street with local business traffic utilizing LaSalle Street. These changes will allow for parking and streetscape improvements to take place along LaSalle Street. This item will be discussed in more detail in the Downtown Plan, Volume 2 of this overall Comprehensive Plan.

The City of Ottawa is currently working on several projects dealing with transportation in and around Ottawa. The first is the potential for a commuter rail line that would utilize the existing train station and CSX line. A feasibility study is being done to determine the potential need for commuter rail service. The counties involved are Will, Grundy and LaSalle. The proposed commuter rail service would run 59 miles from Joliet Union Station to a terminal station in the LaSalle-Peru area, passing through Minooka, Channahon, Morris, Seneca, Marseilles, Ottawa and Utica.

Proposed vehicular transportation improvements include the realignments of Boyce Memorial Drive and Green Street to eliminate two at-grade crossings with the CSX rail line. These two realignments are in the preliminary planning stages and will require additional traffic studies and design, but are being included in this plan so they may be considered if new potential development is proposed in those areas.

In addition to the two proposed realignments and moving traffic off of LaSalle Street to Clinton Street, the City is proposing a full interchange onto Interstate 80. This proposed full interchange would be located just outside of the existing mile-and-one-half jurisdictional limit, three miles west of the Interstate 80 and Illinois Route 23 interchange on E 14<sup>th</sup>.

# LaSalle County Road Map Detail

